

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 INT-05
/084 W

-----122203 040736Z /21

R 020730Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6560
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 10412

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EMIN CG
SUBJ: FRENCH EFFORTS TO OBTAIN ZAIRIAN MINERALS MARKETING CONTRACT

REF: KINSHASA MEMCON DATED SEPT 6, 1977

1. REF MEMCON REPORTED THAT ZAIRIAN STATE-OWNED MINERALS MARKETING FRIM, SOZACOM, INTENDS TO ASSUME GREATER RESPONSIBILITY FOR MARKETING MINERAL PRODUCTS. CURRENTLY ALL SOZACOM PRODUCTS ARE MARKETED BY SOCIETE GENERALE DE BELGIQUE (SGB), BUT SGB'S MARKETING CONTRACT WITH SOZACOM WILL EXPIRE IN JAN 1978.

2. PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING'S BROTHER, OLIVIER GISCARD D'ESTAING, IS CURRENTLY VISITING ZAIRE. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY A KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCE THAT PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT IS TO ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE A MARKETING CONTRACT BETWEEN SOZACOM AND FRENCH INTERESTS TO REPLACE THAT OF SGM.

3. COMMENT: IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT IN 1975 FRENCH INTERESTS ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN MARKETING CONTRACT WITH SOZACOM BUT LOST OUT
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TO SGM, REPORTEDLY BECAUSE OF HIGH-LEVEL BELGIAN PRESSURES AND BECAUSE
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SGM ALSO HAS CONTRACT WITH STATE-OWNED MINING FIRM, GECAMINES, WHEREBY IT SUPPLIES EXPATRIATE PERSONNEL AND OTHER SERVICES WHICH WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN ON SHORT NOTICE FROM OTHER SOURCES. RENEWED COMPETITION BETWEEN FRENCH AND BELGIAN INTERESTS FOR LUCRATIVE SOZACOM MARKETING CONTRACT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY AGGRAVATE

SUSPICION WIDELY HELD AMONG BELGIANS HERE THAT FRENCH ARE SEEKING TO
TAKE OVER THEIR PRIMARY POLITICAL/ECONOMIC POSITION IN ZAIRE.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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